

PARTISAN DEFENCE COMMITTEE

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!



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Dear Comrades,

The left and trade-union movement must take action in defence of Nigerian activists. Nearly 2,500 people were arrested in August for participating in #EndBadGovernance protests against the starvation policies of the Bola Tinubu government. More than 40 were shot dead by security forces, and many of those arrested still languish in jail. Ominously, eleven face the death penalty on trumped-up treason charges. They include supporters of groups affiliated to the CWI and International Socialist Alternative. Their trial is set to start 8 November. Drop the charges now! Release all arrested protesters!

Inspired by the youthful uprising in Kenya in July, the protesters in Nigeria demanded an end to devastating economic austerity. To pay off debt imposed by the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank, the Nigerian government last year abolished fuel subsidies and devalued the currency, leading to a dramatic spike in the cost of food, transport and other necessities. The subsidies were a lifeline for many Nigerians in a country with almost no public transport infrastructure. Coupled with soaring inflation, the austerity measures have pushed many more millions into starvation.

The Tinubu regime's brutal repression targeted protest leaders with the most draconian penalties. Socialist activists from the Youth Rights Campaign (CWI) and the Solidarity Network for Workers' Rights (ISA) are among those now facing the death penalty. Tortured in jail, some were released on harsh bail conditions. Showing that this crackdown is aimed at the entire working-class movement, the government detained Nigeria Labour Congress president Joe Ajaero as he was on his way to attend the September Trades Union Congress here in **Britain**. The Tinubu regime has also outrageously charged Andrew Wynne (also known as Drew Povey), who for years has run a left bookshop located in the headquarters of the NLC, with seeking to overthrow the government. While Wynne was not in the country at the time, police raided the bookshop and arrested his assistant, who is one of those now facing a possible death sentence.

Join us and supporters of the Socialist Party at the protest initiated by the ISA on 8 November, 5.30pm, Nigerian High Commission, Northumberland Avenue WC2N 5BX.

Kate Klein
for the Partisan Defence Committee

The Partisan Defence Committee is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defence organisation which champions cases and causes in the interest of the whole of the working people. This purpose is in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League.